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RECENT DISCUSSION OF UNIVERSITY QUESTIONS

LABOR AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

The American Federation of Labor adopted the following resolution at its Atlantic City convention:

WHEREAS, scientific research and the technical application of results of research form a fundamental basis upon which the development of our industries, manufacturing, agriculture, mining, and others must rest; and

WHEREAS, the productivity of industry is greatly increased by the technical application of the results of scientific research in physics, chemistry, biology, and geology, in engineering and agriculture, and in the related sciences; and the health and well-being not only of the workers but of the whole population as well, are dependent upon advances in medicine and sanitation; so that the value of scientific advancement to the welfare of the nation is many times greater than the cost of the necessary research; and

WHEREAS, the increased productivity of industry resulting from scientific research is a most potent factor in the ever-increasing struggle of the workers to raise their standards of living, and the importance of this factor must steadily increase since there is a limit beyond which the average standard of living of the whole population cannot progress by the usual methods of readjustment, which limit can only be raised by research and the utilization of the results of research in industry; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous important and pressing problems of administration and regulation now faced by federal, state, and local governments, the wise solution of which depends upon scientific and technical research; and

WHEREAS, the war has brought home to all the nations engaged in it the overwhelming importance of science and technology to national welfare, whether in war or in peace, and not only is private initiative attempting to organize far-reaching research in these fields on a national scale, but in several countries governmental participation and support of such undertakings are already active; therefore, be it

Resolved, by the American Federation of Labor in convention assembled, that a broad program of scientific and technical research is of major importance to the national welfare and should be fostered in every way by the Federal Government, and that the activities of the Government itself in such research should be adequately and generously supported in order that the work may be greatly strengthened and extended; and the Secretary of the Federation is instructed to transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the President *pro tempore* of the Senate, and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

College Salaries.—Perhaps the sorely harassed professor has been kept a little too much in the foreground in the push for increased college endowments. If the colleges are to maintain standards satisfactory to their constituencies, they must be able to secure and retain men of suitable preparation and ability. But such men are not reduced to the alternative of continuing in poorly paid college positions or starving. Most of them could go into much more lucrative work with little difficulty, and many of them are now finding themselves forced to do so by the present cost of living. The college is in a worse predicament than the professor. He can turn to other fields of work; it cannot. It must either have very largely increased endowments, or find its credit injured by the continual loss of good men from all its departments of instruction. The “poor professor” has been long-suffering rather than give up certain non-financial emoluments of his calling; but now that the increasing cost of living has made the situation in so many cases impossible, he is finding it only too easy to take care of himself elsewhere. It is the college that is in danger.—*The Review*, October 29, 1919.